

I have seen no further reference to it. I feel confident that my specimen is correctly determined, since it runs straight to *venusta* in the key and cannot be made to fit any other species included. I thank my friend Mr. J. M. Chalmers-Hunt for the opportunity of collecting at the above attractive spot. — A. A. ALLEN.

THE HAZARDS OF MOTH HUNTING. — It was a cool, deceptively clear night on the 22nd of February when Mr. Parsons and I converged upon Abbot's Wood for one of the most bizarre collecting trips in my experience.

In the fading light of that February evening we assembled two actinic traps on the outskirts of the wood. One was sited in an exposed position, and the other was afforded a little shelter by some denuded bushes. The lights had just been switched on when a shower of rain persuaded us to retire hurriedly beneath a hedge. A few minutes later the rain ceased and we began the evening by taking numerous *Theria rupicaprarica* D. & S. and countless examples of *Erannis marginaria* Fabr. showing marked variation. After a good collecting session in the wood, we emerged and noticed several car headlamps in the vicinity of our traps. Not wishing to invite the attention of the public at large, we decided to rescue them. As we neared the site of all the activity we were confronted by a nervous young constable and three members of the farming fraternity. He was under the mistaken impression that we were poaching, and was sadly disappointed when examination of our suspiciously bulging bags revealed sundry mothing impedimenta and the writer's vacuum flask.

It later transpired that our lights had been reported to the police station as a "Martian Invasion" by a score of distraught motorists! The constable had been on the point of calling for reinforcements when we appeared and concluded that chapter of local history. — MARK HADLEY, 7 Beverington Close, Eastbourne, Sussex.

SCYTHRIS FLETCHERELLA MEYRICK IN KENT. — On the 14th May, 1977 Mr. Chalmers-Hunt and I visited a well-known locality on the downs in Kent and found larvae of the seldom recorded *Scythris fletcherella*. I first found the larvae at the same locality in 1973 and have done so on several occasions since, e.g. 1.v.76 and 17.v.76. The species is probably more widespread than records suggest but the larval habits are not well-known. The larva spins a loose web on *Helianthemum nummularium* and this web eventually extends over the lower leaves of several shoots. A tube is formed down into the moss and debris and the larva can withdraw rapidly into the tube when disturbed. The larva eats the upper surface of the leaves which gives the eaten leaves a whitish appearance. Foodplant growing over moss is preferred. — J. ROCHE, 16 Frimley Court, Sidcup Hill, Sidcup, Kent.